

**EXHIBIT: III.B.**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner\*

**DATE:** February 11, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Receipt of the Follow-Up Report from Thomas College Regarding  
Authorization to Award the Bachelor of Arts Degree

**Background:** In May 2001, Thomas College applied for authorization to award the Bachelor of Arts degree in addition to its other degree offerings. (A.A., A.S., B.S., M.B.A., and M.S.). A review team chaired by Dr. Charles Lyons, President of the University of Maine at Augusta, visited Thomas College in September 2001 and issued a report in October 2001. In January 2002, the State Board of Education granted Thomas College the authority to award the Bachelor of Arts degree, and requested a follow-up report to address the four areas where the review team indicated that the College had provisionally met the standard: financial resources, academic programs, library and learning resources, and faculty. The College was also requested to submit a copy of the most recent 10-year NEASC report. The requested follow-up report has been received from the College and is hereby submitted to the State Board of Education for review. This material includes a section addressing progress in those areas specified in the Board's 2002 action and an "Overview" that summarizes the major conclusions of the College's recent self-study process. Two copies of the Self-Study Report are on file in the State Board's office.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board of Education receive for review the follow-up report with supporting documentation as submitted by Thomas College.

\* Prepared by Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist